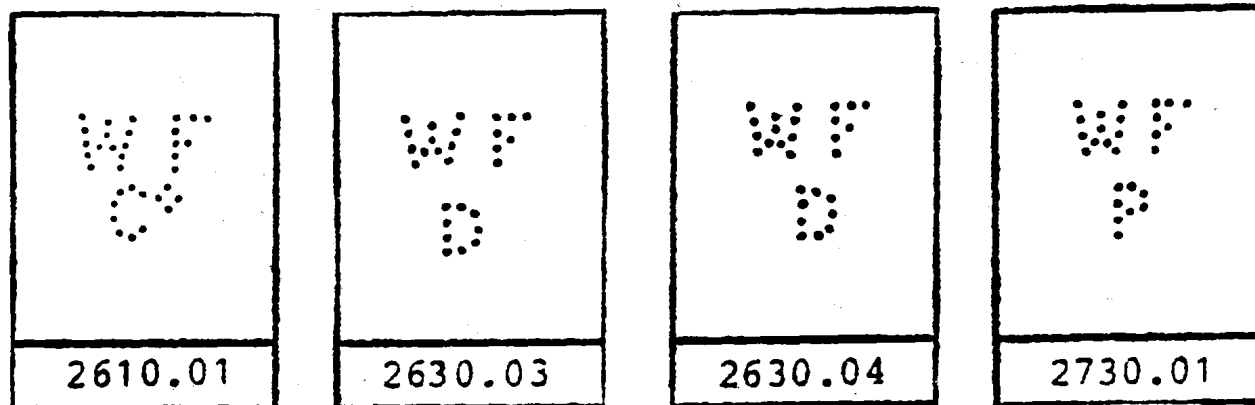


WILLIS, FABER & DUMAS LTD: CORNHILL INSURANCE



KIM BJARNT has posed a question which set me looking through my TILLES; TOMKINS; S THE STOCK EXCHANGE YEAR BOOK 1956.

Kim's question concerns perfin W2610.01 (WF/C) and W2630.03 (WF/D). He has a 1930 cover with combination of these perfin, 2610.01 on 2 x ½d GV and 2630.03 on 1 x 1½d GV, with identity of Willis, Faber & Dumas Ltd, London. Tomkins has 2610.01 as Willis Faber & Co Ltd but no identity for 2630.03 although 2630.04 is identified as Willis Faber & Dumas Ltd. So did something happen within the company in 1929/30, besides getting themselves a new perforator? Apparently a Mr Dumas became associated with the company. Was he promoted or did he come from outside?

Two further covers in Kim's collection with 2630.03 are dated 1934 and 1936. Then in 1936/37, perhaps even earlier, a further change takes place. Kim has a 1937 cover with perfin W2630.03, (with GV s E8 stamps on) but the identity on the back is The Cornhill Insurance Company Limited, EC3.

So, "Who ate whom?"; or was it a further development; or is it a second user?

My own additional comments to this are that W2730.01 - WF/P - is identified with Willis Faber & Partners Ltd, and found on GVI light colours; the Stock Exchange Year Book for 1956 shows a C.L.Faber as a Director of Cornhill Insurance Company Ltd., (who themselves are a subsidiary of Thomas Tilling Ltd.); I have a 1970 cover with W2630.01 5d Machin with identity of Willis, Faber & Dumas Ltd., 54 Leadenhall Street, London EC3.

Anyone any further comments? Remember that Roy will be able to add all these values, dies, dates etc into the new catalogue.